

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 02503 230211Z

72

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 129823

P 230125Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5540

S E C R E T CANBERRA 2503

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD, AND  
CINCPACFLT FOR ADM. WIESNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2401; (B) CANBERRA 2472

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL AT MY HOME APRIL 22 FOR A  
GENERAL TALK, SIR ARTHUR TANGE, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DEPT., DIVULGED THAT HE WAS FRANKLY OPPOSED TO THE CORAL  
SEA NAVAL VISIT AND HAD SO RECOMMENDED TO THE PRIMIN.  
HE WAS UPSET THAT RENOUF HAD CITED THE REASONS HE HAD  
(SEE REFTTEL A) FOR PRIMIN'S RELUCTANCE REGARDING CORAL  
SEA NAVAL VISIT, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT WAY ISSUE  
HAD BEEN TAKEN UP WITH PRIMIN BY MENADUE HAD ELICITED  
INITIAL RESERVATIONS WHICH RENOUF HAD CONVEYED TO ME.

2. TANGE'S RESERVATIONS ABOUT NAVAL VISIT FOCUSSED  
ON HIS CONCERN THAT A NAVAL VISIT AT THIS TIME COULD STIR  
UP ATTENTION AND DEBATE WITH REGARD TO OUR JOINT  
FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA, ESPECIALLY NORTHWEST CAPE AND  
PINE GAP. HE SAID THAT WHITLAM PLACES PRIME IMPORTANCE  
ON OUR ANZUS RELATIONSHIP AND THE RETENTION OF THESE  
FACILITIES AND DOES NOT WANT TO RISK REVIVED NATIONAL  
DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES. PRIMIN IS ALSO CONCERNED OVER  
REVIVING DEBATE ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES.

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3. I SAID THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO PRESS FOR ANY NAVAL VISIT WHICH COULD CREATE THESE TYPES OF PROBLEMS AND NATURALLY I WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING PRIMIN'S (AND TANGE'S) ATTITUDES ABOUT THE VISIT. I WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO THE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF NAVAL VISITS HERE WITHOUT ANY KINDS OF REQUIREMENTS THAT WE STATE WHETHER OR NOT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD. TANGE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT AND BELIEVES PRIMIN WILL TOO, ONCE THE ISSUE IS TALKED OUT WITH HIM.

4. IF GOA DECIDES TO CANCEL VISIT, IT SEEMS TO ME MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE BOTH CITE AS REASONS THE NEED FOR DEPLOYMENT OF VESSELS INVOLVED IN CONNECTION WITH CURRENT CRISIS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

5. I WILL BE SEEING WHITLAM OFF AT AIRPORT AT 8:35 P.M. TONIGHT (APRIL 23) ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR PERU, JAMAICA (COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS MEETING) AND WASHINGTON. GREEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC - CINCPACFLT.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORAL SEA, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** X1  
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**Film Number:** D750141-0600  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**To:** STATE  
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